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BABYLON 5
IN VALEN'S NAME
PART ONE OF THREE
BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI, MICHAEL COLLINS & DAVID ROACH
DIRECT SALES
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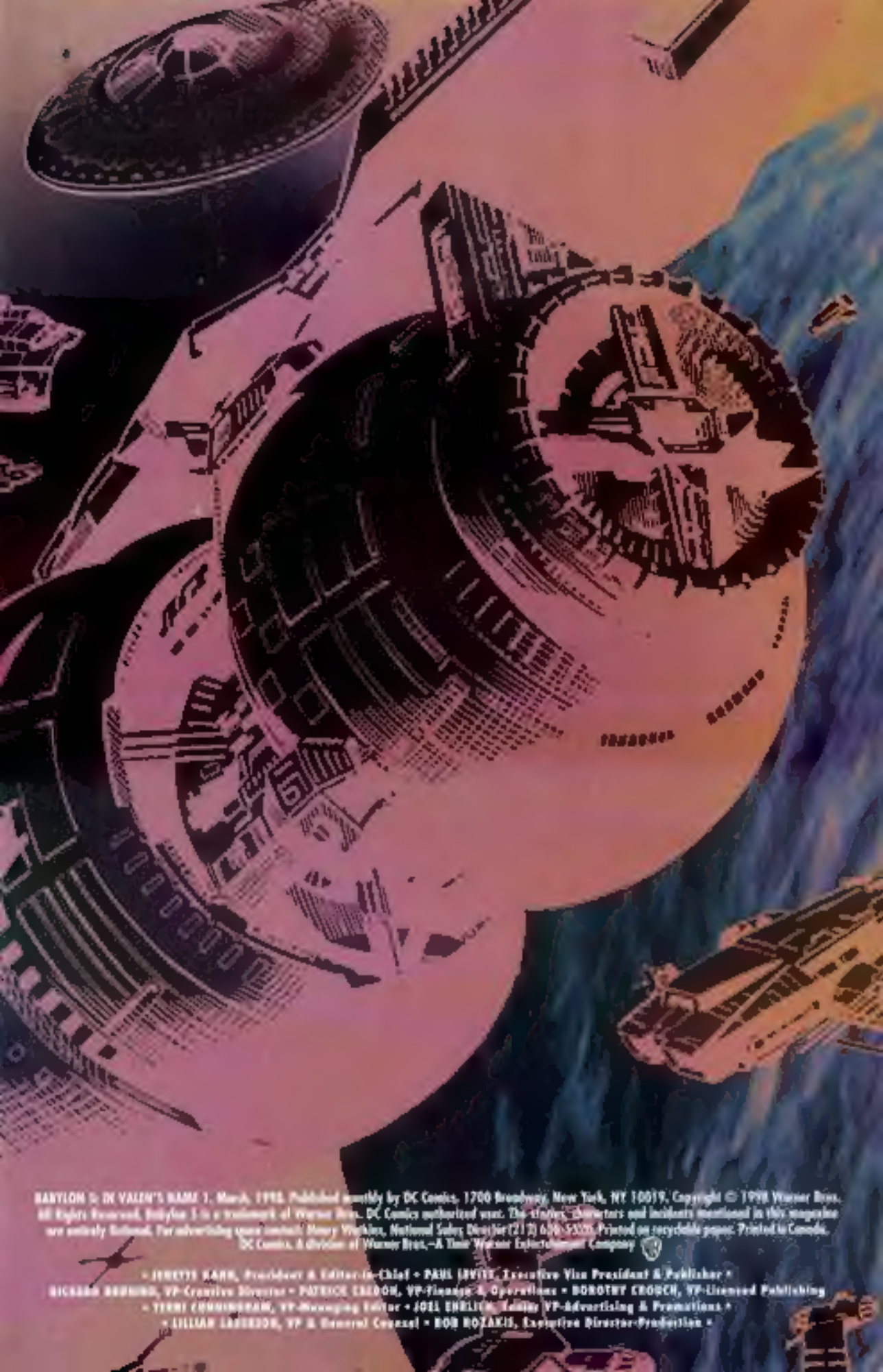
BASED ON THE WARNER BROS. TELEVISION SERIES BABYLON 5 CREATED BY J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI



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IN VALEN'S NAME

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BABYLON NARRATION
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN BETTER. IT'S ALWAYS THE QUIET DAYS THAT GET YOU. THEY LULL YOU INTO A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY, THEN SNEAK UP BEHIND YOU AND WHAM!
IT'S ALL MY FAULT. SOMEDAY I'LL LEARN TO KEEP MY BIG MOUTH SHUT AND REFRAIN FROM TEMPTING THE UNIVERSE.

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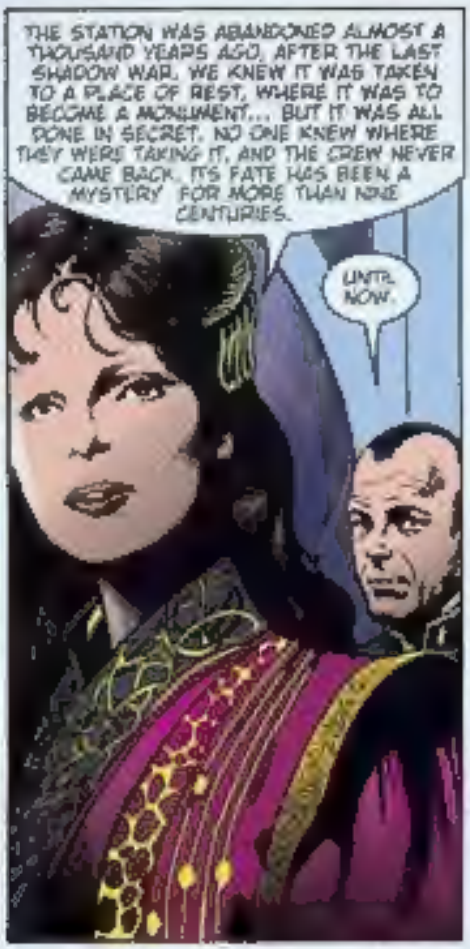
—AND WE'RE SURROUNDED BY THIS SHADOW DEATH CLOUD, TEN THOUSAND VORLON SHIPS, ANOTHER TEN THOUSAND SHADOW VESSELS, PLUS ABOUT EIGHT THOUSAND OF OUR OWN. IT'S THE BIGGEST THING I'VE EVER SEEN IN MY LIFE.
AND WITH ALL THAT, IT WASN'T WEAPONS THAT ENDED THE WAR. IT WASN'T SHEER NUMBERS. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS WE UNDERSTOOD OUR WAY OUT OF IT.
IT'S A DAMNED FUNNY UNIVERSE SOME DAYS.
IS THAT THE WILDEST THING YOU'VE EVER SEEN SINCE YOU'VE BEEN HERE?
WILDEST? YEAH. STRANGEST? I THINK THAT WAS THE TIME WE PICKED UP A SIGNAL FROM BABYLON 4.
"THE STATION HAD DISAPPEARED SEVERAL YEARS EARLIER. AFTER WE EVACUATED HER CREW, IT DISAPPEARED AGAIN.

"WE THOUGHT IT WAS BEING PULLED INTO THE FUTURE. BUT IT WAS BEING TAKEN A THOUSAND YEARS INTO THE PAST TO FIGHT IN THE LAST GREAT WAR AGAINST THE SHADOWS.
"COMMANDER -- EXCUSE ME, AMBASSADOR SINCLAIR WENT WITH IT. THAT WAS THE LAST TIME WE SAW EITHER HIM OR THE STATION."
YEAH, THAT WAS THE STRANGEST. I STILL REMEMBER THE DAY IT HAPPENED. IT WAS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFE MESSAGE. "COMMANDER --
COMMANDER, WE'RE PICKING UP A SIGNAL. IT'S FROM BABYLON 4.
EXACTLY. THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I FIRST HEARD ABOUT IT.
NO. I MEAN REALLY... WE'RE PICKING UP A SIGNAL FROM BABYLON 4.
NO. NO. NO. NO. NO... NOT AGAIN...

ARE YOU SURE IT'S BABYLON 4?
POSITIVE. WE RAN THE I.D. THREE TIMES.
LOOKS LIKE AN AUTOMATED DISTRESS SIGNAL.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE IT'S COMING FROM?
SECTOR 730 BY 12 BY 9.
WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IS, HOW DID IT GET THERE?
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU WOULDN'T KNOW.

EARTHDOME SPENT MOST OF ITS MONEY ON BABYLON 4, LEAVING US TO SCRAPE UP WHATEVER WAS LEFT FOR B5. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT MADE B4 DIFFERENT... WAS THAT IT COULD MOVE. IT WAS EQUIPPED WITH THE BIGGEST ION ENGINES EVER MADE.
THEY DIDN'T WANT IT TO BE A SITTING DUCK, LIKE THE PREVIOUS THREE THAT WERE DESTROYED DURING CONSTRUCTION.


THE STATION WAS ABANDONED ALMOST A THOUSAND YEARS AGO, AFTER THE LAST SHADOW WAR. WE KNEW IT WAS TAKEN TO A PLACE OF REST, WHERE IT WAS TO BECOME A MONUMENT... BUT IT WAS ALL DONE IN SECRET. NO ONE KNEW WHERE THEY WERE TAKING IT, AND THE CREW NEVER CAME BACK. ITS FATE HAS BEEN A MYSTERY FOR MORE THAN NINE CENTURIES.
UNTIL NOW.

JOHN, WE MUST INVESTIGATE THIS. IF IT IS TRULY BABYLON 4... IT COULD CONTAIN PRICELESS INFORMATION, RECORDS ABOUT THE LAST WAR. IT'S A CRUCIAL PART OF MINBARI HISTORY.
I DISAGREE. I SAY WE SEND OUT A PROBE OR A TECH CREW FIRST, CHECK IT OUT, THEN GO IN IF IT LOOKS SAFE.

WHY THE CONCERN?
EVERY TIME THAT THING APPEARS, IT MEANS TROUBLE. IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF FLYING DUTCHMAN. TWICE BEFORE WE ALMOST DIDN'T MAKE IT OUT... THREE IS PUSHING IT.
IT'S A VALID POINT.
BUT WE'RE GOING ANYWAY.
"BECAUSE WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HISTORY. BECAUSE WE HAVE TO HONOR DELENN'S DESIRE TO RECLAIM A MONUMENT TO THE LAST WAR.
"BUT MAINLY... BECAUSE I WANT TO KNOW THE END OF THE STORY."
SOMEHOW, I JUST KNEW HE WOULD SAY THAT.

WE ARRIVED AT OUR DESTINATION 40 HOURS, 14 MINUTES AND 10 SECONDS LATER.
"APPROACHING TARGET AREA."
WE'RE NOT READING ANY INHABITED PLANETS IN THE AREA.
TRANSMISSIONS?
NONE.
THEN LET'S TAKE HER IN. MAKE THE JUMP TO NORMAL SPACE.
AS SOON AS I SAW IT, I GOT THIS FEELING IN THE PIT OF MY STOMACH.

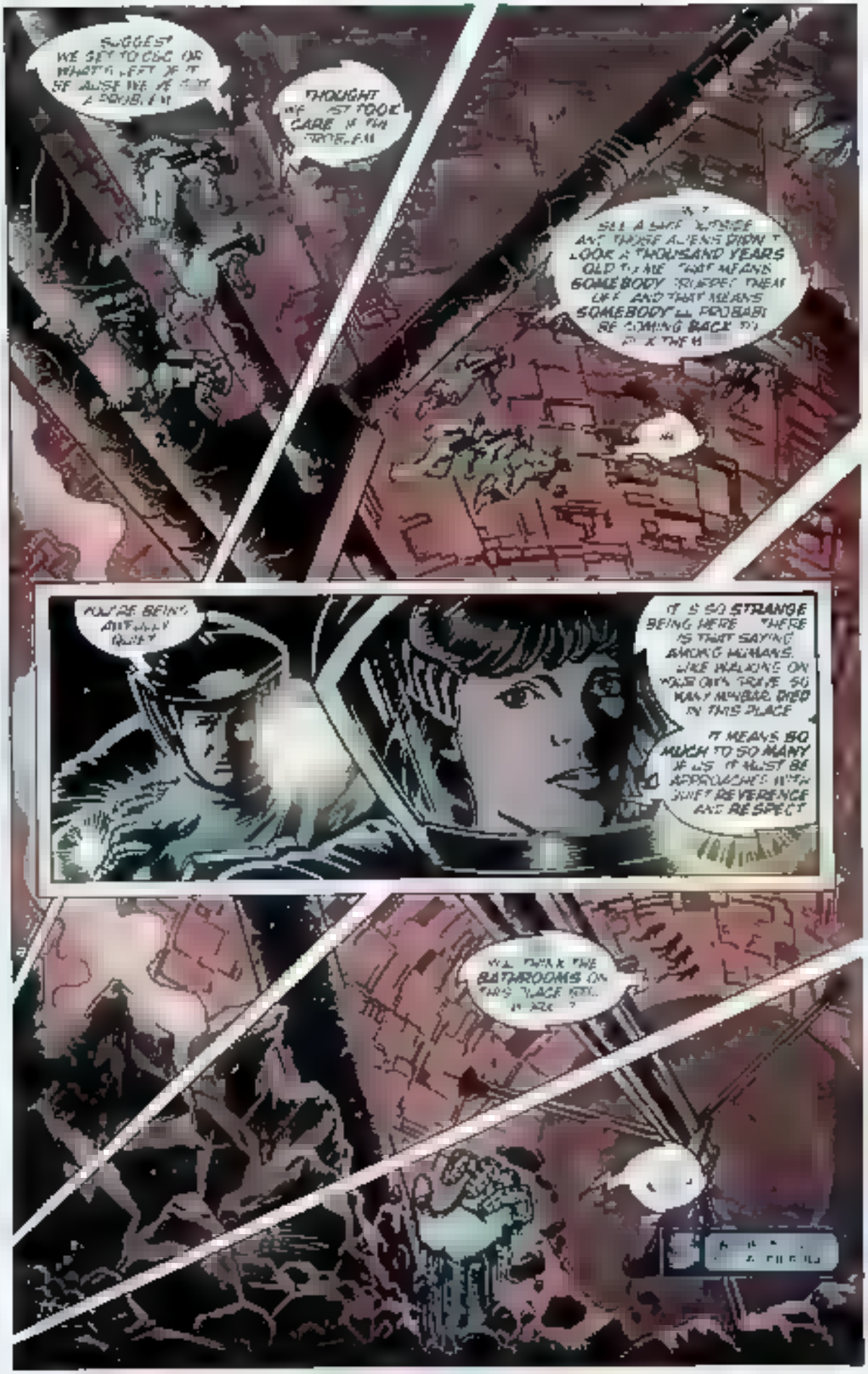
I THINK WE ALL FELT IT... THE SENSE THAT THIS SHOULDN'T BE HERE. THE LAST TIME WE SAW BABYLON 4 IT WAS NEW, POLISHED, NEW.... KNOWING WHAT IT HAD BEEN THROUGH... IT WASN'T THE SAME PLACE ANYMORE.
STATUS?
I'M PICKING UP A WEAK POWER SOURCE, AND THE DISTRESS SIGNAL, NOTHING ELSE. THE DOCKING BAY IS DOWN, SO WE'LL HAVE TO GO IN BY EVA.
I STILL DON'T LIKE IT.
DELENN, TELL THE CREW TO STAND BY WHILE WE GO ABOARD. AND IF THEY PICK UP ANY TRANSMISSIONS, LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY.
OF COURSE.
NO ONE SPOKE AS WE CHANGED. WE DIDN'T KNOW WHAT WE'D FIND INSIDE. BODIES, POSSIBLY. IT WAS LIKE PREPARING TO ENTER AN EGYPTIAN PYRAMID FOR THE FIRST TIME.
DELENN SEEMED ESPECIALLY NERVOUS. WE KNEW WHAT BABYLON 4 MEANT TO HER. IT WAS THE HOME BASE FOR THE GREATEST OF THEM, VALEN.

VALEN. THAT WAS THE NAME THEY GAVE COMMANDER SINCLAIR WHEN HE AND ZATHRAS TOOK BABYLON 4 INTO THE PAST... WHEN SINCLAIR CAME OUT OF THE CRYSALIS HALF-HUMAN AND HALF-MINBARI. "A MINBARI NOT BORN OF MINBARI."
HE HELPED THEM WIN THE LAST SHADOW WAR, AND CREATED THE GREY COUNCIL.
NONE OF US EVER IMAGINED WE'D SEE THIS PLACE AGAIN.
PROVING AGAIN THAT THE UNIVERSE IS NOT JUST STRANGER THAN WE IMAGINE, IT'S STRANGER THAN WE CAN EVER IMAGINE.
STAY CLOSE... THERE'S DEBRIS ALL OVER THE PLACE.

THE STARBEAMS CORRECTLY, THIS SMALL PART IS AHEAD OF IT AND INTO THE CENTER OF THE STATION.
YOU SAID SOMETHING
MR GARIBALDI?
MORE VITAMINS
BELIEVE YOU SAID THAT SOME TIME AGO CAPTAIN
YEAH WELL MY ONE'S NOW

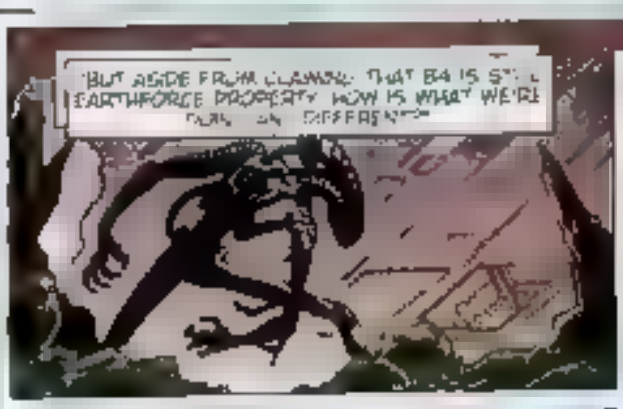
I'VE GOT A HEAT SIG TARGETS AT FOUR O'CLOCK
THE FIRE POWER THE EFFECTIVE RANGE OF YOUR GUNS
BUT THEY'RE NOT AFRAID OF THEIRS
THEY'LL ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS WAIT US OUT WE HAVE NOT A BETTER PLAN

I'M GOING TO GET THROUGH TO THE WHITE STAR BUT THERE'S SO MUCH METAL AND INFRASTRUCTURE CAN'T GET A CLEAR SIGNAL SOMEONE HAVE TO RISE LONG BACK FAR ENOUGH TO GET OUT A SIGNAL.
A FISSURE.
HERE GOES NOTHING...

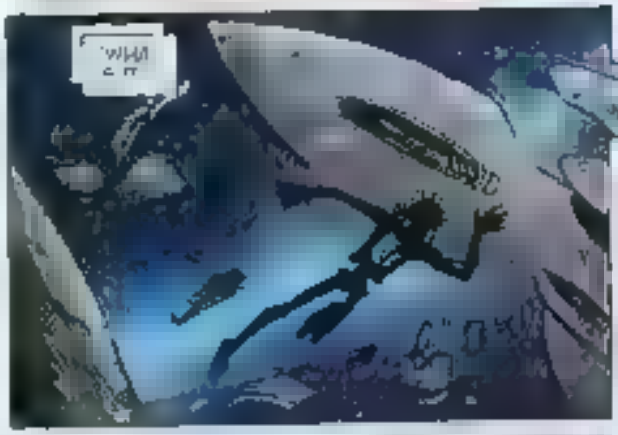

I SUGGEST WE GET TO CSC OR WHAT'S LEFT OF IT BEFORE WE ATTRACT A POSSE, M'AM
I THOUGHT MF ST TOOK CARE OF THE TROOPERS
SEE A SAFE DISTANCE AWAY THOSE ALIENS DIDN'T LOOK A THOUSAND YEARS OLD FOR NOTHING THAT MEANS SOMEBODY RESPECTS THEM AND THAT MEANS SOMEBODY'LL PROBABLY BE COMING BACK TO FIX THEM
YOU'RE BEING AWFULLY QUIET
IT'S SO STRANGE BEING HERE THERE IS THAT SAYING AMONG HUMANS, LIKE WALKING ON HOLY GROUND SO MANY MUSLIMS DIED IN THIS PLACE
IT MEANS SO MUCH TO SO MANY IT IS IT MUST BE APPROACHED WITH DUE REVERENCE AND RESPECT
WE THINK THE BATHROOMS ON THIS PLACE WILL BE

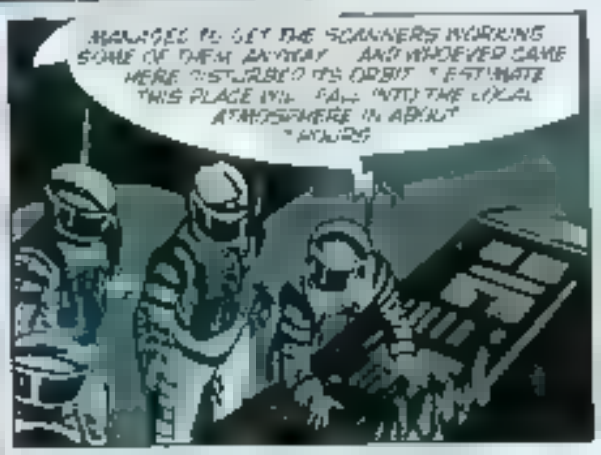
HOW'S IT GOING?
THE REACTOR IS DEAD BUT THE SOLAR PANELS HAVE BEEN PUT ON LINE PROBABLY BY THE ALIENS WE SAW OUTSIDE
LET ME SEE IF I CAN GET THE DISPLAYS ON

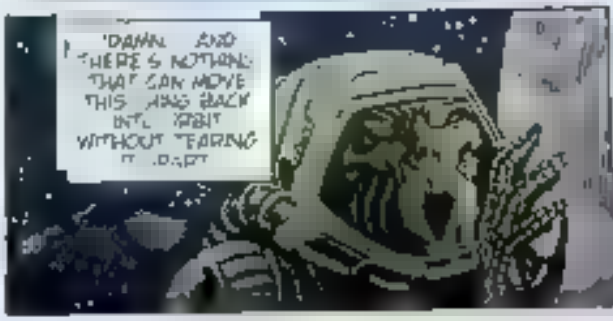
I WOULD'VE LIKED TO QUESTION THOSE TROOPERS BUT IT WAS TOO LATE SO MY GUESS IS THEY WERE SCAVENGERS RAIDING THE PLACE
SACRILEGE

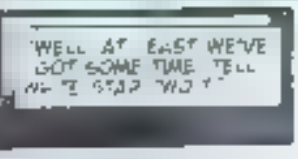

BUT ASIDE FROM LOOKING THAT B4 IS STILL EARTHFORCE PROPERTY NOW IS WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO DIFFERENT

WHEN WE LEAVE HERE, WE WILL TAKE WITH US ONLY THE EXPERIENCE AND THE INFORMATION NOTHING MORE NO ONE OWNS THIS PLACE ANY LONGER IT BELONGS TO HISTORY
NOT F OING, I H AFRAID

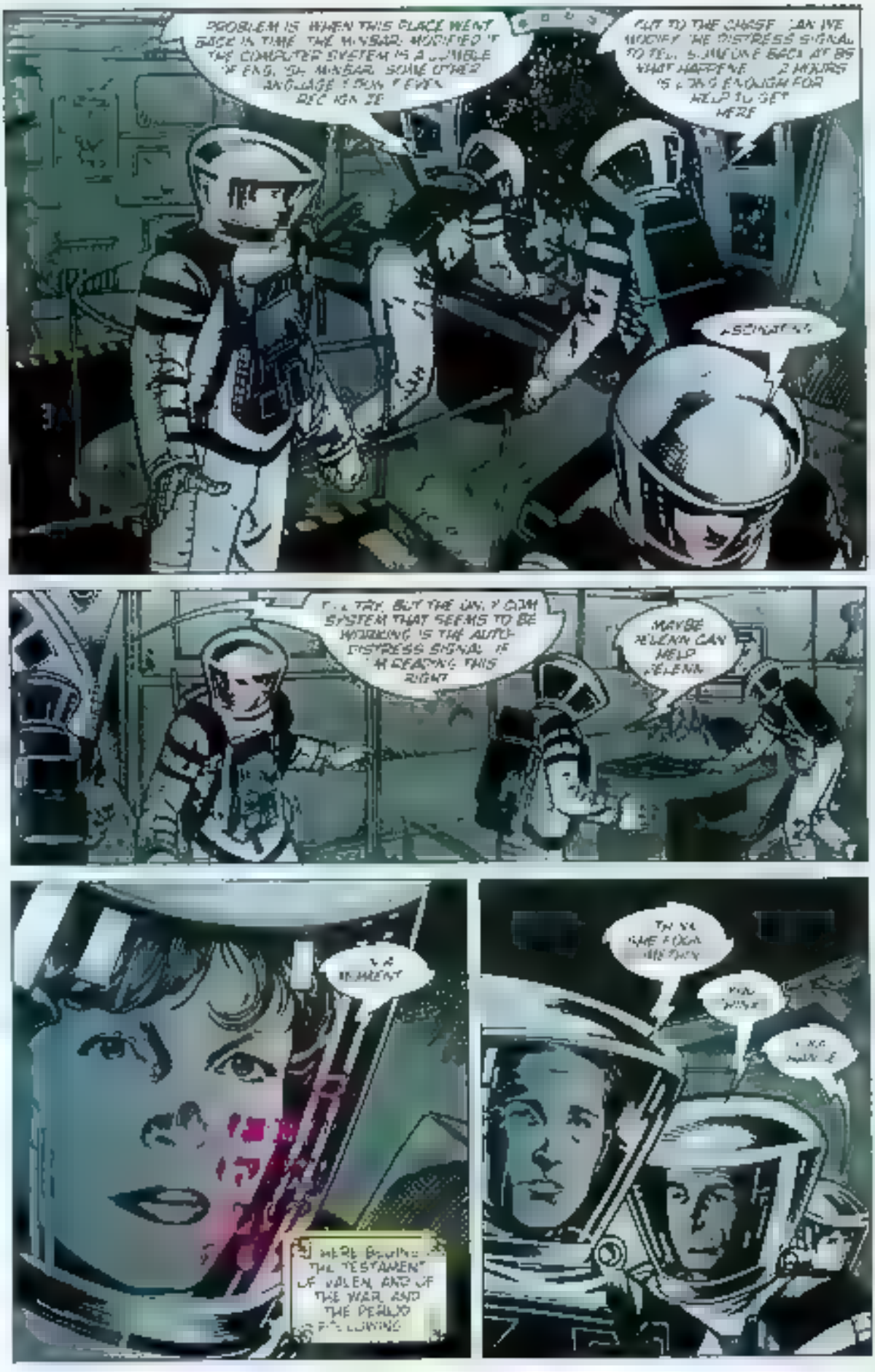

WHA

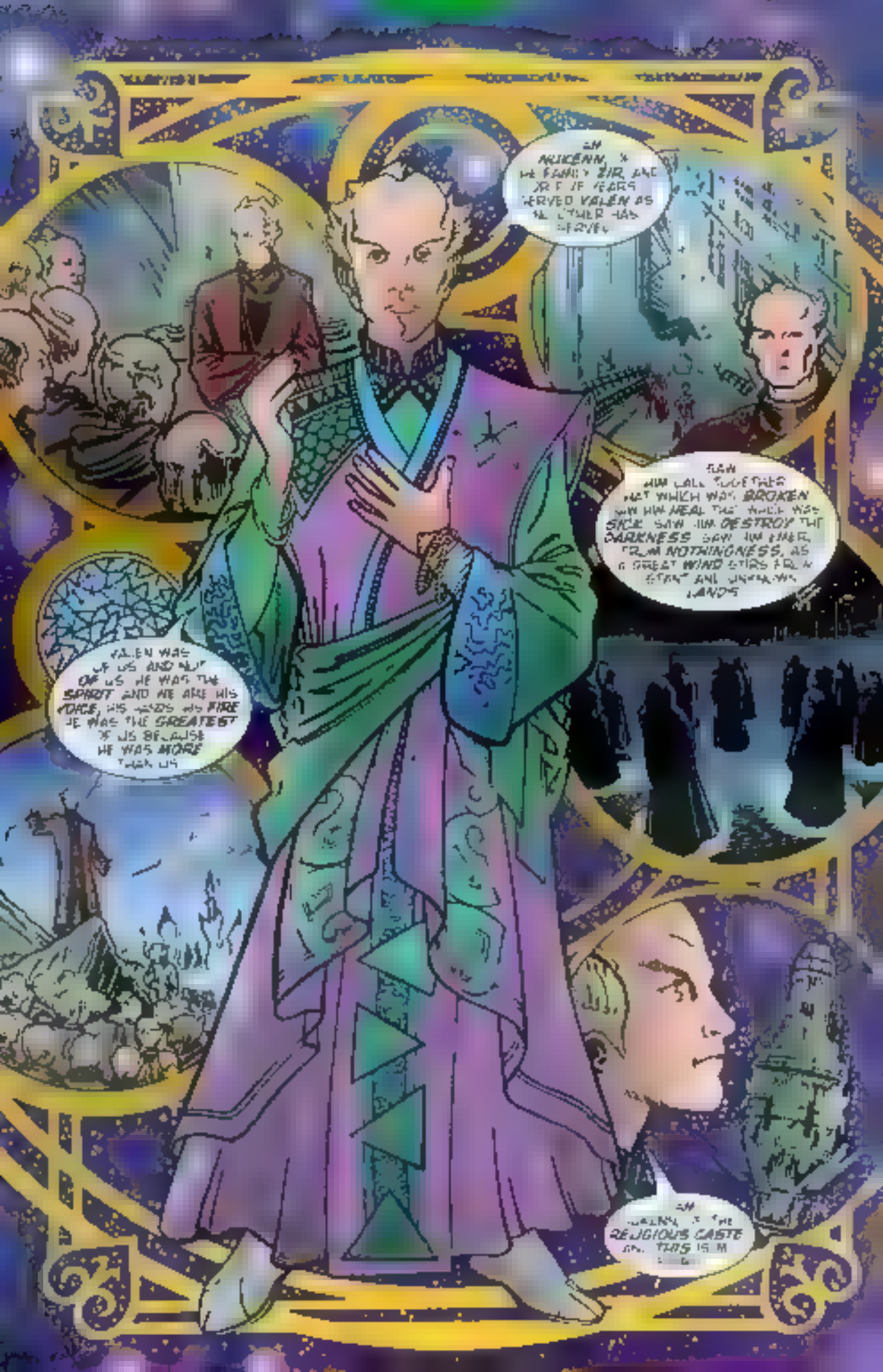

MANAGED TO GET THE SCANNERS WORKING SOME OF THEM ANYWAY AND WHOEVER CAME HERE DISTURBED ITS ORBIT ESTIMATE THIS PLACE WILL FALL INTO THE LOCAL ATMOSPHERE IN ABOUT HOURS


DAMN AND THERE'S NOTHING THAT CAN MOVE THIS AND BACK INTO ORBIT WITHOUT TEARING IT APART


WELL AT LEAST WE'VE GOT SOME TIME TELL ME I STAY WHY

AW HELL
THIS ONE HAVE US BIG TAIL


PROBLEM IS WHEN THIS PLACE WENT BACK IN TIME THE HANGAR MODIFIED IF THE COMPUTER SYSTEM IS A JUMBLE OF ENG. SX HANGAR SOME OTHER ANCIENT CIVILIZATION PROBABLY
CUT TO THE CHASE CAN WE MODIFY THE DISTRESS SIGNAL TO TELL SOMEONE BACK AT BS WHAT HAPPENED 2 HOURS IS LONG ENOUGH FOR HELP TO GET HERE
ASSIGNMENT
I'LL TRY, BUT THE ONLY COM SYSTEM THAT SEEMS TO BE WORKING IS THE AUTO-DISTRESS SIGNAL IF I'M READING THIS RIGHT
MAYBE HELENA CAN HELP HELENA
I'M MOMENT
I WERE BEGINS THE TESTAMENT OF HELEN AND OF THE WAR AND THE PERIOD FOLLOWING


I AM MUCENN, A HE FAMILY ZIR AND OF IF YEARS SERVED VALEN AS AL LYMER HAS SERVED
SUCH WAS LAL TOGETHER THAT WHICH WAS BROKEN AND HIM HEAL THE WHICH WAS SACE SAW HIM DESTROY THE DARKNESS SAW HIM BIRTH FROM NOTHINGNESS, AS A GREAT WIND STIRS FROM GIANT AND UNKNOWN LANDS
VALEN WAS OF US AND NOT OF US HE WAS THE SPIRIT AND WE ARE HIS VOICE, HIS HANDS HIS FIRE HE WAS THE GREATEST OF US BECAUSE HE WAS MORE THAN US
I AM THE RELIGIOUS CASTE OF THIS IS M

I AM RASHOK, OF THE WILY DOSH. AND FOR THREE YEARS I SERVED UNDER VALEN AS NO OTHER WAS EVER
I SAW HIM TEAR DOWN WALLS THAT HAD NEVER BEFORE FALLEN
I SAW HIM RALLY OUR FORCES IN TIMES OF GREAT DANGER AND DESPAIR
I SAW HIM WIN VICTORIES DURING SUPERIOR FORCES AND LEAD THEM
I SAW HIM STERN, GRAVE WEEPING, AND THROUGH IT ALL, A TRUE WARRIOR NEVER SURRENDERING UNTIL THE WAR WAS OVER. VALEN WAS EVERY HAND THAT STRUCK FOR FREEDOM'S PURPOSE HE WAS THE EYE THAT SAW FOR US, THE STRENGTH THA FOUGHT FOR US, THE WISDOM THAT CONQUERED THE UNCONQUERABLE
I AM RASHOK, OF THE WARRIOR CASTE AND THIS IS MY

HAD BEEN DESTROYED OUR SHIPS WRECKED AND FAR FROM HOME WANDERED FLED FOUND NO FRIENDLY PORT THE SHADOWS HAD TURNED ALL AGAINST US
NEEDED REPAIR OUR NEEDED PEACE REST AND A PLACE FROM WHICH TO PLAN OUR NEXT MOVE TO RETURN HOME WOULD MEAN RETREAT WE WOULD NOT DO THIS COULD NOT ALLOW THE DARKNESS TO FOLLOW US BACK
THEN A NEW STAR APPEARED BEFORE US FLARING IN AN INSTANT AND THEN GONE A SIGNAL FROM THE UNIVERSE THAT IT HAD NOT FORGOTTEN THE LEAST OF HER CHILDREN LOST AND FRIGHTENED AND FAR FROM HOME
WE HAD LOST OUR BASE WE LEADERS WE
THE UNIVERSE RETURNED
THREE

"HE GAVE US A WEAPON, A VESSEL INTO WHICH WE COULD POUR OUR RESOURCES, AND FROM WHICH WE COULD LAUNCH OUR COUNTEROFFENSIVE.
"IT WAS UNTOUCHED AND PRISTINE, AND WE WERE ABLE TO MODIFY IT TO OUR NEEDS. VALEN NEVER TOLD US WHERE IT HAD COME FROM, AND, AFTER THE FIRST FEW TIMES, WE STOPPED ASKING. IT WAS ENOUGH THAT IT WAS.
"NEITHER DID WE KNOW WHERE HE CAME FROM, OR HIS CURIOUS COMPANION. BUT AS TIRED AS WE WERE, WE DID NOT CARE. HE HAD GIVEN US REFUGE FROM THE COLD NIGHT OF SPACE, AND FOR THAT ALONE WE WERE THANKFUL.
"EVEN THEN, WE KNEW HE WAS DIFFERENT. HE HAD NO FAMILY NAME, AND WE WERE UNABLE TO TRACE HIS LINEAGE BACK TO ANY MINBARI LINE. AND YET HE WAS MINBARI, A MINBARI NOT BORN OF MINBARI.
"WE KNEW THEN THAT HE WAS A GIFT FROM THE UNIVERSE IN OUR HOUR OF NEED. HE WAS ASHERETT --

RECORD DAMAGED. SKIPPING TO NEXT AVAILABLE RECORD.
"... CALLED TOGETHER THE THREE CASTES: WARRIOR, RELIGIOUS, AND WORKER. WITH THE FALL OF OUR BASE, THE CASTES HAD QUARRELED AMONG EACH OTHER OVER THE DIRECTION WE MUST FOLLOW. THERE HAD BEEN FIGHTING WITHIN THE CASTES. ARGUMENTS HAD TURNED TO VIOLENCE.
"WHEN THE CASTES WOULD NOT BEND, HE TURNED HIS BACK ON US, SHAMED US, AND CREATED THE AHLA-SHOK & A NEW ARMY OF MINBARI THAT RECOGNIZED NO CASTE LINES, THAT SHUNNED CASTES. IF THE CASTES WOULD NOT COOPERATE, THEN HE WOULD FIND A WAY TO WORK OUTSIDE THE CASTES.
5 RANGERS (TRANSLATED FROM THE NARIM, MEANING "THE APPLICATION OF FORCE")
"THAT WAS HIS LESSON: TO GO BEYOND THE LIMITATIONS OF FLESH, OF RULES, OF LAW, TO THE CENTER OF THE SOUL. WE COULD ONLY ENVY HIS FREEDOM. TO FIGHT A WAR, YOU FIGHT A WAR, YOU DO NOT ARGUE DOCTRINE OF THE SUPREMACY OF CASTES.
"WE CALLED HIM ENTIL'ZHA."
WILL YOU FOLLOW ME INTO FIRE, INTO DARKNESS, INTO DEATH?

"THE COMPANION OF VALEN, WHO CAME TO US WHEN HE CAME... WE NEVER UNDERSTOOD THAT FRIENDSHIP. HE COULD NOT FIGHT, NEVER FOUGHT, AND YET HE SEEMED TO KNOW WHAT WAS NEEDED BEFORE IT WAS NEEDED, AND AIDED US IN ADJUSTING OUR SHIPS TO BE HELD IN THE LAUNCH BAYS OF THE NEW BREED.
NO, NO... WRONG. THIS IS VERY WRONG. ZATHRAS FIX. THIS NOT BELONG. MINBARI ALWAYS CLUTTER. ZATHRAS DOES NOT UNDERSTAND CLUTTER.
"I THOUGHT HE WOULD DRIVE US MAD. AND YET VALEN CALLED HIM A FRIEND.
"WE UNDERSTOOD A LITTLE BETTER WHEN THE SHADOWS CAME. AND ZATHRAS WAS THE ONE WHO ASKED..."
CAPTAIN... DELENN... WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM.

GOT A PROBLEM? WE'VE HAD A PROBLEM FOR A WHILE NOW.
YEAH, WELL IN THAT CASE IT JUST GOT WORSE.
OUR ORBIT IS DETERIORATING FASTER THAN I'D ANTICIPATED. I THINK THE SHAPE OF THE STATION IS CATCHING THE ATMOSPHERE, CAUSING IT TO GO IN A STEEPER ANGLE.
SO HOW MUCH DO WE HAVE LEFT ON THE 72 HOURS?
AT A GUESS... 24.
SUSAN... ASSUMING OUR DISTRESS SIGNAL WAS RECEIVED BY BABYLON 5, IT WILL TAKE AT LEAST 36 STANDARD HOURS FOR ANOTHER SHIP TO REACH US.
I KNOW.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM! ANY TIME I EVER ALLOW MYSELF TO THINK, "WELL, IT COULD BE WORSE," NINE TIMES OUT OF TEN, IT GETS WORSE. FAST.
COMMANDER SINCLAIR ONCE CALLED THIS PLACE A FLYING DUTCHMAN... A SHIP DESTINED NEVER TO REACH HOME. NOW WE HAD TO FIND SOME WAY TO GET OUT. OR THIS TIME IT WAS GOING TO TAKE US WITH IT WHEN IT WENT DOWN IN THE FLAMES.
AND YOU KNOW, THERE'S NEVER A GOOD REVELATION AROUND WHEN YOU NEED ONE.